

App. Serial No.: 09/816,951

Atty. Docket No.: 0011-048

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A holding apparatus for temporarily securing an imager having a ferro-magnetic component, said apparatus comprising:
 - a grip face adapted to abut said imager; and
 - a magnet disposed to selectively, magnetically engage said ferro-magnetic component of said imager by altering the magnetic field relative to the grip face.
2. (original) The holding apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
 - said magnet is a permanent magnet; and further comprising
 - a handle coupled to said magnet for rotating said magnet between an on position and an off position; and
 - a magnetically permeable shunt path for shunting magnetic flux therethrough when said magnet is rotated to said off position.
3. (previously amended) The holding apparatus of claim 2, wherein:
 - said shunt path includes two ferro-magnetic blocks spaced apart from one another;
 - a portion of each of said blocks forms a portion of said grip face; and
 - each of said blocks at least partially encircles said magnet.
4. (original) The holding apparatus of claim 3, wherein:
 - said permanent magnet is shaped as a rectangular solid having at least one flat pole face.
5. (original) The holding apparatus of claim 4, and further including:
 - a cylindrical pole piece disposed adjacent said flat pole face.
6. (original) The holding apparatus of claim 2, wherein:
 - said magnet is held in an armature assembly.

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7. (original) The holding apparatus of claim 6, wherein:
the armature assembly includes a non-magnetic shaft.
8. (original) The holding apparatus of claim 6, wherein:
said handle is affixed to the armature assembly such that the armature assembly can be manually rotated by the action of rotating said handle.
9. (original) The holding apparatus of claim 6, wherein:
said magnet is held within a shaft of the armature.
10. (original) The holding apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:
two cylindrical pole pieces, one of said pole pieces disposed adjacent a first pole face of said magnet, and the other of said pole pieces disposed adjacent a second pole face of said magnet.
11. (original) The holding apparatus of claim 6, wherein:
the imager is held by magnetic flux against a grip face when the armature assembly is rotated to an on position.
12. (original) A magnetic chuck for holding an imager, comprising:
a non ferromagnetic housing;
two ferromagnetic blocks affixed to said housing; and
a magnet rotatably affixed between said blocks such that a magnetic field can selectively be routed through said blocks or between said blocks.
13. (original) The magnetic chuck of claim 12, and further including:
a grip face positioned such that when the magnetic field is routed between said blocks then the magnetic field passes across the grip face.
14. (original) The magnetic chuck of claim 12, and further including:
a knob for manually rotating said magnet.

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15. (original) The magnetic chuck of claim 12, wherein:
said housing is made of aluminum.
16. (original) The magnetic chuck of claim 12, further comprising:
a magnetic armature at least partially surrounded by said blocks.
17. (original) The magnetic chuck of claim 16, wherein:
the armature includes a non ferromagnetic shaft at least partially enclosing said magnet.
18. (original) The magnetic chuck of claim 17, and further including:
at least one pole piece adjacent to said magnet.
19. (original) The magnetic chuck of claim 18, wherein:
the quantity of pole pieces is two.
20. (original) The magnetic chuck of claim 12, wherein:
said magnet flux from said magnet is routed through said blocks when said magnet is rotated to an off position.
21. (previously amended) A magnetic chuck for positioning an imager assembly, said magnetic chuck comprising:
a contact surface for engaging said imager assembly; and
means for selectively generating a magnetic field through said contact surface to attract said imager assembly to hold said imager assembly to said contact surface.
22. (original) The magnetic chuck of claim 21, wherein: said means for generating a magnetic field to attract said imager assembly includes:
a magnetic shunt path; and
means for selectively directing said magnetic field through said shunt path.

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23. (original) A method for mounting an imager assembly to another apparatus, said method comprising:

magnetically coupling said imager assembly to a positioning device;
positioning said imager with respect to said other apparatus with said positioning device;
fixing said imager with respect to said other apparatus; and
disengaging said imager from said positioning device.

24. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein:

said step of magnetically coupling said imager assembly to said positioning device includes directing a magnetic field to attract said imager assembly; and
said step of disengaging said imager includes redirecting said magnetic field through a shunt path.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein:

said imager assembly includes a pixilated imaging device mounted to a front surface of a ferro-magnetic substrate; and
said step of magnetically coupling said imager assembly to a positioning device includes magnetically engaging a rear surface of said substrate.

26. (previously presented) The holding apparatus of claim 1, wherein the selective magnetic engagement is provided by the ability to change at least one of the direction and strength of the magnetic field of said magnet.

27. (currently amended) A holding apparatus for temporarily securing an imager mounted to a front side of a substrate, said apparatus comprising:

a grip face adapted to abut a back side of said substrate; and
a magnet disposed to selectively, magnetically engage said back side of said substrate through said grip face by altering the magnetic field relative to the grip face.

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